

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## GALLERY ANNOUNCES FIRST GRANTS AND ADVISORY BOARD FOR ADVANCED STUDY CENTER

WASHINGTON, D. C. October 23, 1979. Seven distinguished scholars and art historians, covering the fields of ancient, byzantine, islamic, renaissance and baroque studies and 19th- and 20th-century French painting and sculpture, will form the first advisory board to the National Gallery of Art's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts.

Beginning this year, a rotating selection committee from this board will advise on the choice of resident and visiting scholars for the coming year. The first scholars are scheduled to arrive in the fall of 1980. The Center is located in the Gallery's new East Building, the exhibition galleries of which opened in June, 1978.

The advisory board was announced today by John R. Stevenson, President of the Gallery, following a regular scheduled meeting of the Gallery's Board of Trustees on Friday.

Two foundation grants, from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, funding in part the Study Center were also announced by Mr. Stevenson. The three-year Mellon grant, providing initial support to phase in the Center, covers staff salaries, stipends for five scholars, consultants, seminars and symposia and other miscel-

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laneous items not provided for under the Gallery's federal appropriations. The Kress contribution, also for three years, is the first towards the support of additional scholars; it also includes funds for the development of the Gallery's photographic archives.

The program of the Gallery's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts was outlined this spring by J. Carter Brown, the Gallery's Director, and Henry Armand Millon, the eminent scholar and architectural historian who was appointed in May to be the Center's first Professor-in-charge. Visiting scholars, ranging from very advanced levels to doctoral candidates, will pursue independent and Gallery-related research and writing, using the facilities of the Gallery, including its art reference library, photographic archives, offices, carrels and seminar rooms in addition to the collections and special exhibitions, and the other major resources of Washington.

The appointments to the advisory board are as follows: Jean Sutherland Boggs, director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Marvin Eisenberg, professor of art history at the University of Michigan; Oleg Grabar, chairman of the department of fine arts at Harvard University; George Heard Hamilton, director emeritus of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute; Francis J. H. Haskell, professor of art history, Oxford University; Irving Lavin, professor of history of art, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton; and William C. Loerke, professor of byzantine art, Center for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

Boggs is considered one of the world's outstanding museum directors, as well as a prominent specialist on Edgar Degas, the 19th-century French painter. Prior to coming to the Philadelphia Museum as

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director in 1979, she was a professor of fine arts at Harvard University. She has also been the director of the National Gallery of Canada and a former president of the Association of Art Museum Directors. She is a member of numerous professional organizations and has received many honorary degrees, medals and other honors. She is on the visiting committee of the department of fine arts at Harvard.

Eisenberg, a specialist in the early renaissance, is a former president of the College Art Association. He is also on the visiting committees of the department of fine arts at Harvard and the Freer Gallery of Art, a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and was a Guggenheim Fellow.

Grabar is a renowned scholar and archeologist in islamic art. He is currently professor-in-charge of the newly established Harvard/MIT Aga Khan program for islamic architecture. He has been director of the American School of Oriental Research, Jerusalem, honorary curator at the Freer Gallery of Art, and an editor of Ars Orientalis. He is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Former professor of fine arts at Yale University and Williams College, Hamilton is known for his work on Edouard Manet and other artists of the 19th and 20th centuries and as author of The History of Art and Architecture of Russia. He has given the Slade Lectures at Cambridge University and was the National Gallery's Kress Professor last year. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He is also professor emeritus of Williams College and a former president of the College Art Association.

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A fellow of the British Academy, Haskell was librarian of the fine arts faculty at Cambridge University and was a member of the British School at Rome. He is author of Patrons and Painters: a study of the relations between Art and Society in the Age of the Baroque and is a frequent contributor in the New York Review of Books and art journals. He is also a fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, and a trustee of the Wallace Collection, London.

A scholar in late antiquity and the 17th century, Lavin has been a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton since 1973. He is secretary of the steering committee for the Corpus of the Ancient Mosaics of Tunisia, a many-volume publication of Roman mosaics in Tunisia. He is on the National Committee for the History of Art and is an alternate member of the International Committee for the History of Art. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is on the visiting committee of the department of fine arts at Harvard and has taught at New York University and Vassar College.

Loerke, a classical archeologist and byzantinist, is a member of the managing committee of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and is on the board of the International Center of Medieval Art. Before coming to Dumbarton Oaks, where he also has been director of studies for the Center for Byzantine Studies, he was chairman of the fine arts department at the University of Pittsburg.

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